

Applicants further elects sub-species (a) of the species i(1), with traverse.

The claims encompassing the elected invention are claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 - 13.

The Examiner has imposed an election/ restriction requirement between the species of i(1), i(2) and i(3), and a further species requirement, in the event Applicants elect species i(1), between sub-species (a),(b), (c), (d) and (e).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Any search of any of the species i(1), i(2) or i(3) is certain to include a search of the other two, and any search of the subspecies (a),(b), (c), (d) or (e) is certain to include the other four. Accordingly, no additional burden would be placed on the Patent Office in searching all of the species and subspecies together. By contrast, a very great burden will be placed on Applicants if this election/restriction requirement is maintained. Applicants will be subjected to several times the cost and effort in prosecuting several patent applications for an invention that should have been included in one, and will also be subjected to the continuing expense of maintaining several individual patents, whereas only one should be required to cover the full invention.

In addition, an additional burden will be placed on the public, in that the full scope of Applicants' exclusive rights will not be ascertainable from a single patent, and the public will have to find and study several individual patents to ascertain the full

scope of Applicants' exclusive rights.

The great additional burden that will be placed on Applicants and the public in maintaining the restriction requirement is far greater than the slight, if any, additional burden that will be placed on the Patent Office in withdrawing the Election/Restriction Requirement.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement.

In the event that the Examiner does not find it possible to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, it is respectfully requested that the non-elected subject matter be rejoined with the elected subject matter upon allowance of elected subject matter.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit
Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted

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